

Femmes d'Esprit

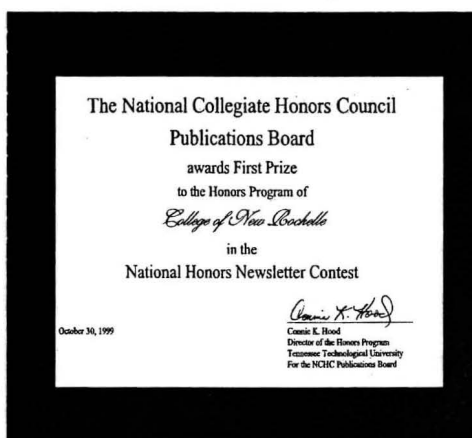
November Issue

WE WON -- AGAIN!!

Amanda Cartagena, '01

Congratulations to the 1998-99 staff of *Femmes* in their First Prize win in the National Collegiate Honor Council's Newsletter Contest!! This is *Femmes* second win in this contest. In addition to the prestige of First Prize, *Femmes* also received a \$100 check. Senior Griselda Kim accepted the award at the National Collegiate Conference Honors Council Conference in Orlando, Florida on October 29, 1999.

In determining the winner, the judges take into consideration the number of hours put in, the number of issues produced, the number of student-run or whether the winners narrowed down the field to three submissions and the final winner was selected by the NCHC board. This means that Denise, Mary and I will have the opportunity to judge the 1999-2000 contest. We definitely look forward to seeing what our fellow Honors students across the country are up to and hope to learn from their publications.



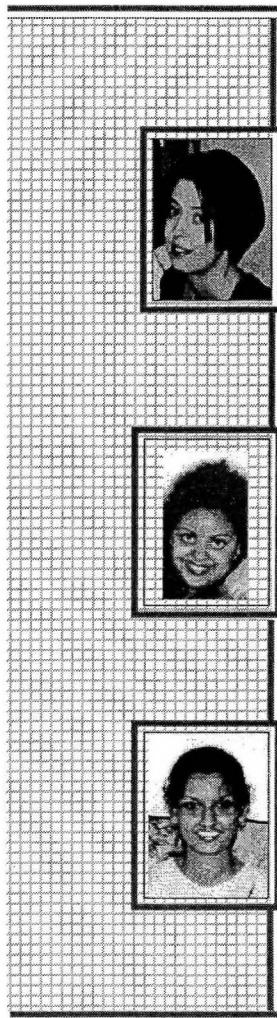
termining the judges take into layout, the number of hours put in, the issues produced the newsletter is has an advisor. winners nar-

rowed down the field to three submissions and the final winner was selected by the NCHC board. This means that Denise, Mary and I will have the opportunity to judge the 1999-2000 contest. We definitely look forward to seeing what our fellow Honors students across the country are up to and hope to learn from their publications.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize Jennifer Horbal--last year's Editor-In-Chief--for her hard work and dedication. We now have something to strive for and are eager to follow in your footsteps, Jenn!

The
Voice
of the
CNR
SAS
Honors
Program

Editor's Note



Can you believe there are only two more months until the Millennium!!! Some people are afraid of the next century--with Y2K fever, who wouldn't be?--some people are anxious, others are nervous.

Well, we here at *Femmes* are gladly awaiting the Millennium. Denise, Amanda, and I are happy that we have the great opportunity to usher *Femmes d'Esprit* into the next century.

As stated on the cover page, we hope to continue *Femmes'* tradition of excellence and we look forward to getting even more recognition for our humble newsletter.

In this issue, take a look at the new opportunities available for internships and travel-study courses. If you want to know a little about what AmeriCorps does, read recent grad Maria Coviello's letter. Finally, end by reading some of our Honors members' thoughts on the next Millennium.

And, as usual, do not just read this issue and then put it away. Tell us what you think!! Our numbers are below.

Enjoy the issue and we look forward to serving you in the next century.

**Denise
Abatemarco,**
Story Editor

**Amanda
Cartagena,**
Story Editor

Mary Job,
Layout Editor

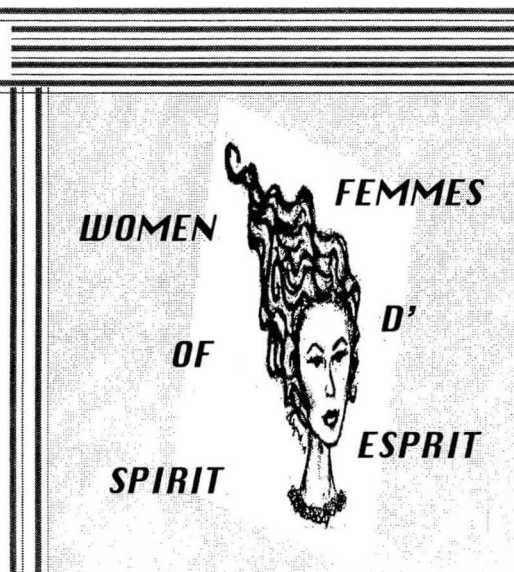
TALK TO US

Still use "snail-mail"? Editors of *Femmes d'Esprit*
Well, we don't mind. The College of New Rochelle
You can contact us at: SAS Honors Program
29 Castle Place
New Rochelle, New York 10805

Give us a ring: 914--654-2511 ext.7451#

More of an e-mail person? Well, we are at:
Femmes_d_Esprit@hotmail.com

Why not check us out online? We can be
found at: <http://www.cnr.edu/home/Honors>



Femmes Staff

Publisher

The CNR Print Shop

Typists

Erica Pitts

Sonsiris Tamayo

Laura Wiltshire

Columnists

Vera Chernysheva

Katherine Donovan

Jennifer Horbal

Creative Corner

Estela Garcia

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Femmes d'Esprit accepts articles from SAS Honors students and faculty. Submissions will be returned upon request. The Editors of *Femmes* reserve the right to edit submissions as they see fit.

In This Issue

Features



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Honors Flashback

Award-winning former *Femmes* editor-in-chief Shiba Russel returns to tell everyone how wonderful CNR is!!

The Casino Question

Jennifer Horbal recalls her summer course and ponders the question of casino success on Native American reservations.



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Wholesome America

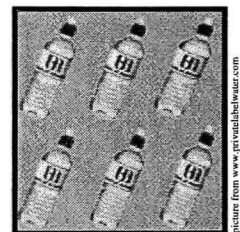
Katherine Donovan takes a look at the Miss America Pageant's ban on married or pregnant contestants.



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Working up a Sweat...

for water. But where is it? And how much it going to cost you? Vera Chernysheva lets you know.

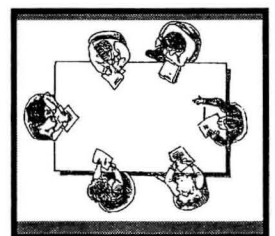


Departments

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Committee Chats

Two months have passed by so quickly. Take a look at what our committees have done or are planning to do.



If you haven't caught it yet, Millenium Fever is rampant. The *New York Times* has dedicated six issues of its *Sunday Magazine* to the past ten centuries. The Millennium Series is being collected by Dr. Raia and is stored in the Honors Center for anyone who wants to enjoy or consult them. Here is your chance to catch up on the last 1000 years! Also, If you are looking for ideas for an Honors Contract or a paper, you are bound to find one here.

Good afternoon! You know it feels like yesterday when I was in your shoes. Like all of you, I knew I wanted to go to college, but was still trying to make the decision that would affect me for a lifetime. However, unlike all of you, I never went to a CNR Open House. I never even heard of CNR, that is, until they kept bombarding me with pamphlet after pamphlet and letters. And I kept throwing them away!

But you must be wondering what "sold" me. The reason why I say the word "sold" is because realistically a college education is an investment, a purchase into your future.

It's not something you look at on your dresser before you go to sleep at night. It is something inside of you...your brain...that no one else can take away.

I have talked to people who graduated from college, who basically took nothing away. They went to college, partied for 4, maybe 5, and possibly 6 years, barely attended class or claimed they had poor teachers. In big schools this is what sometimes happens. Teachers seem distant. A large percent of the college population seems distant, because it is a larger university. You are just student A, whose social security number is 1-2-3 and you usually sit in row B. They will learn your name--hopefully before the semester or quarter's over.

I never dreamed of those situations when I had my sights on Boston University. When I was in your shoes, Big U was on my mind. Well, nothing but that and meeting my future husband. So you could imagine the look on my face when CNR told me that this is an all girl's school and "No! There are no boys here." But what I did as a high school senior, and what you must as well, is think of the long term.

That is something I did in 1993 when I decided to attend CNR. Why? Well, number 1--and I am not gonna lie to you--was finances. How much do you wanna pay back in loans after you graduate? Number 2--Big U versus Small U. Attending CNR, I had no distractions. In class, there were no boys. But outside of class there were plenty. Iona College is just a few miles away (and that's where I met my fiancé. We have now been together for 6 years). Small U also allows you more opportunities to shine--to become a leader.

And let us not forget smaller classes and personal relationships with teachers. To this day, I still stay in touch with a few who even helped me reach another goal--attending graduate school. Without those close relationships, my teachers could not have written such personal recommendation letters. They got to know me in the small classes we had and were able to make that relationship come across on paper.

Looking back today, I do not regret going to CNR. Many of my close female relationships were formed here, and that includes students, faculty and staff. Because the environment here is unlike any other, I have always considered it as a home. But there is one thing you must understand.

Yes, I am now a television reporter. But it was not just CNR that allowed me to achieve that goal. Knowledge about how to *be* a reporter, I owe to my graduate school--Northwestern University. Knowledge of subjects ranging from art to history to psychology and some broadcasting I owe to CNR. But understand that when you go to college, you are not training to be a professional--so to speak--you are developing your mind. You are obtaining a liberal arts education, meaning you

Honors Flashback: Shiba Russell, '97



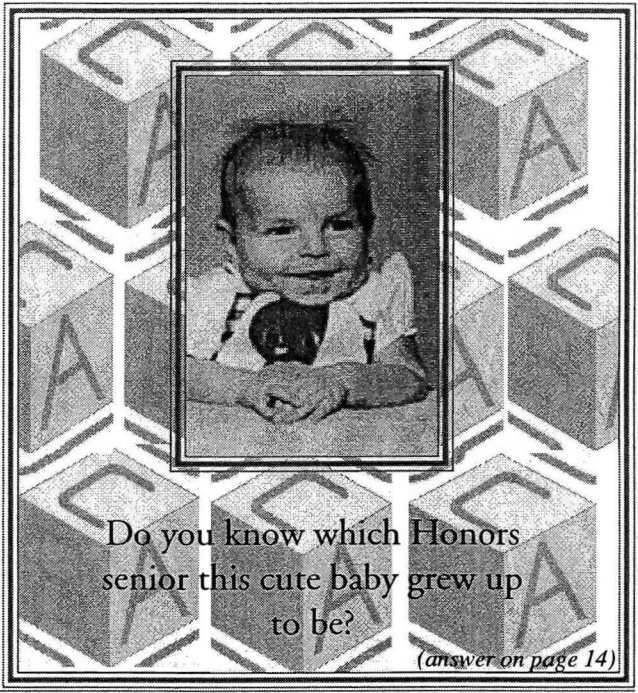
Dr. Raia, Shiba, Dr. Zimmer

Speech at October Open House

The College of New Rochelle
School of Arts and Sciences



HONORS PROGRAM



Do you know which Honors
senior this cute baby grew up
to be?

(answer on page 14)

take classes on everything. You may learn more information on one subject because it is your major, but it is really up to you to go that extra mile. Whether it be internships or graduate school, the choice is yours. But it all starts with selecting a college that cares about you and your future. I can truly say even after I left here two years ago, CNR still continues to care about my future. Even if I decide to leave the field of journalism.

This month marks my one year anniversary with the News 12 family. I am definitely growing in this profession because I have the support of management and my peers. The same support that makes you feel comfortable at a job is quite similar to CNR's support system. I think that is the advantage of a small college. And being a women's college makes it even more special.

Being more aware of myself as a woman helps me deal with comments like, "you don't need a man to help you carry that equipment? You see, I am my own photographer and I carry a huge camera, tripod, and bag myself. So I just tell whomever that this is the 90's and yes I can handle it. It is really no big deal. I know that if I were a man they would not dare ask if I were OK with the equipment. But you know what? Women have muscles too. I guess statements like that, some coming from women themselves, would not have

bothered me much if I had not graduated from here. Because before CNR, I would have never defined a statement like that as sexist. I guess you could say I am more aware now. I simply do not tolerate sexism, because now I know what it is.

A few months ago, a community official kept calling me "sweetheart" and "sweetie." This along with his general attitude was offensive. Well, you know what I said to him. *My name is Shiba. Thank you.*

Now that is something I never had to tell my professors here. All names were learned fast, no matter who you were, and an identity had been attached to that name. The only thing that I see attached to "sweetie" is girl or sweet little girl.

But as girls entering adulthood, you should think of one thing--personal happiness. Choose your college appropriately. Choose one that makes you feel like an individual. One where you sense warmth and one which you know you will not dislike in the end. The only thing I disliked in the end was that the time of my life had ended and I had to enter the "real world." But you know what? I was not scared. CNR left me ready to conquer the world, and I am luckily still out there fighting. Good luck to all of you. Thank You.

Femmes d'Esprit

*Co-Editors: Denise Abatemarco,
Amanda Cartagena, Mary Job*

We hope everyone enjoys this issue. As always, we seek responses from everyone on the articles, poetry, pictures that we include in the issue -- good or bad. If any Honors member is interested in joining our team, let us know!

NCHC Committee

*Co-chairs: Griselda Kim,
Gloria Romero*

Our four delegates--Katie Donovan, Dayanara Hudson, Griselda Kim, Tzveta Raynova--attended the NCHC conference in Orlando, Florida on October 27-31, 1999.

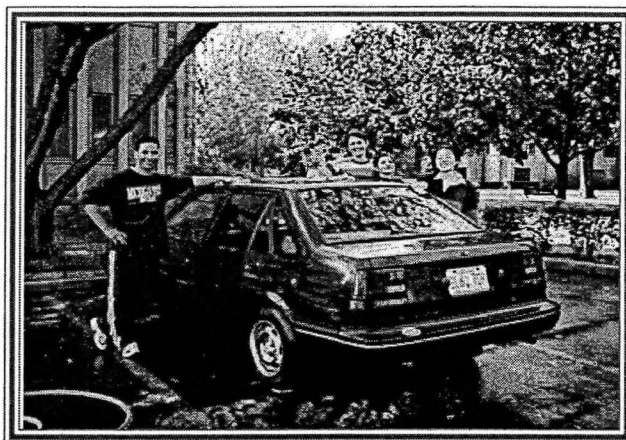
So, now we are moving on to plans for the NE-NCHC Conference in Puerto Rico. The conference theme will be "The Many Faces of Puerto Rico" and will be held on April 13-16 at the San Juan Marriott. If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact Gloria @x2919 or email her at Hmmgrl@aol.com.

Publicity

*Co-chairs: Dayanara Hudson,
Gloria Romero*

We're the flyer folks! Give us a call for your committee advertising:

Dayanara x2785
Gloria x2919
Denise x2916
Sarah x2720
Amanda x2620
Vera x2910



Tzveta Raynova, Vera Chernysheva, and Griselda Kim wash customer Christian Mejia's car at the second car wash.

Activities Committee

*Co-chairs: Erin Carmichael, Jaclyn Martinez,
Tzveta Raynova*

The First Annual Fall Car Wash of the SAS Honors Program was a grand success. Our Committee held two car washes (10/1, 10/8) in a section of the Ursula Parking lot. Due to heavy advertising and dirty cars, we had a profit of more than \$200 to help fund the students attending the NCHC Conference in Orlando. Thanks to everyone who helped!!

Holiday Party Committee

Chair: Katie Donovan

Our Committee consists of the Class of 2003. Our annual Honors Holiday Party will take place in December. Please be on the lookout for our flyers. Those who want to help with the party can leave a message in Katie's mailbox.

Myths We Live By Lecture Series

Co-chairs: Christina Cortez, Sadia Rehman

We are in the process of arranging a debate/ discussion formatted program for November. If anyone is interested in assisting our committee with this, please leave a message for Sadia at x2682.

Dear Dr. Raia,

I am currently employed under AmeriCorps, which is probably the best-kept secret of college graduates. It is a program akin to the Peace Corps, in that you are providing services for areas that are in need. The program will pay you so much per hour, as well as put money aside for your college loans, which is a big plus after you graduate!

Because I was a psychology major, I am able to work in many different areas of the school that I am working with. I am currently involved in implementing a drug and alcohol awareness taskforce, setting up counseling in as anger management, grief etc. The psychologist pressed with demographic recorders involve-



and am also groups for areas such as management counseling, school was so impressive academically (i.e. my Honors Program), that

he took me under his wing and we are working together on a research project. I am very fortunate to be working with a seasoned professional -- I am learning so much!

I am also working as a tutor for Algebra, English, and History, and am working as an aide for an autistic child. I find myself drawing from a wealth of knowledge and experience that sets me apart from my peers. I do not have a "boss" per se, but rather am given many ideas with which to work, and then it is up to me to put those ideas to use. I am having a wonderful time, and I cannot believe my good fortune.

I had never realized how much the Honors Program had done for me. Thank you so much, Dr. Raia.

Love,
Maria Coviello, '99

Lisa Marie Mecca
class of 2001
Major: Political Science
Minor: Communication Arts
Home: Yonkers, NY

Vera Chernysheva
class of 2002
Major: Broadcasting
Minor: Languages
Home: California

Nadine Alvarez
class of 2002
Major: Psychology
Home: Boston, MA

Estela Garcia
class of 2002
Major: Psychology/
English
Program: Education
Home: Richmond Hill, NY

Meet Our Newest
Honors Members

Erica Pitts
class of 2002
Major: Communication Arts
Home: Washington, D.C.

Crystal Grady
class of 2003
Major: Biology/
PreMed
Minor: Spanish
Home: Kirkland Quebec

Sonsiris Tamayo
class of 2002
Major: Psychology/
English
Home: Bronx, NY

Sharon Gail
Matthie
class of 2002
Major: Political Science
Home: Bronx, NY

M. Elizabeth
Lagana
class of 03
Major: Political Science
Home: New Rochelle, NY

Casinos: Beneficial or Hazardous to Native American Culture?

Jennifer Horbal, '00

This summer I had the opportunity to do something that I always wanted to do but never had the chutzpah or the chance to do -- travel. Last Spring, Dr. McKernan convinced me to go with her, Dr. Colleen O'Neill, and four other students on a travel-study course to Arizona titled, *Copper, Crafts, and Casinos: Contemporary Issues in American Indian Society*.

With a great deal of planning from Drs. McKernan and O'Neill and generous student funding from Dr. Russell Taylor, this trip became a reality. I did not know what I was getting myself into (my first flying experience, my first time away from the East Coast, and my first vacation where I would have to take notes!) and by the time we left on June 18th at five in the morning, I was unsure whether or not I wanted to spend a week and a half of my summer taking a class.

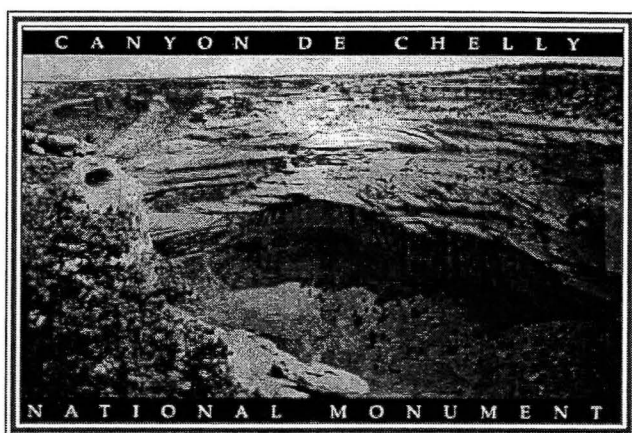
Luckily, my trip to Arizona turned out to be one of the best experiences of my college career. Throughout the jam-packed ten-day trip, I was able to meet many people and participate in ceremonies that I did not even know existed.

Our trip was separated into two parts. The first leg of the trip--which was led by Dr. McKernan--took place around Phoenix and Tucson. There in Southern Arizona, we were able to



Julia Violette, Jennifer Horbal, Margie, Delicia Reid, Elizabeth Lennon and Gail pose in front of the San Xavier Mission Church on the Tohono O'odham reservation.

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Postcard of the Canyon De Chelly in Arizona.

travel with a Tohono O'odham woman around her reservation. Her people believe, along with many other Native American tribes, that casinos and gambling do not affect their Native American beliefs and only make them stronger as a united people. The second half of our trip took place in Northern Arizona on a Navajo reservation. Dr. O'Neill led this part, in which we were able to mingle with the largest recognized Native American group in the United States. The Navajos, contrary to the Tohono O'odhams, do not believe that gambling is an acceptable form of making money on a reservation and that it in fact only hurts the Native American community.

Throughout the trip, my classmates and I kept journals on our daily experiences, thoughts, and reflections on readings. By the time I looked back through my journal, I had a hard time determining which group of Native Americans--the pro-gamblers or anti-gamblers--lived more successfully. That is, which group could successfully hold onto their Native American traditions.

The Tohono O'odham's have benefitted from the casinos that are thriving on their reservations. For instance, each member of the tribe is allotted approximately \$17,000 annually to be used for education. This is something that the Navajos simply cannot afford to do.

The Navajos are not only one of the largest reservations but also the poorest. Yet, they feel

(cont'd on page 9)

that their culture is able to stay more in touch with their ancestors, their hardships, and triumphs by not giving into a capitalistic society and opening casinos. The other students and I were able to witness this firsthand. When we visited the Navajo reservation we took part in their *Sheep is Life Festival*. We watched some of their traditions and stories come alive through weaving, herding, cooking, and discussion. We were able to witness the closeness and pride the Navajo community had for the traditions of their past.

Based on the information above, it would seem that my decision should be simple. People who can hold on to their traditions and also offer their community funds for education, like the Tohono O'Odham is obviously more successful than the Navajos, who have a low economic status. Even though my definition of success revolves around how well a people can continue their cultural traditions, the Tohono O'odham have a better chance of educating their people about their

traditions *because of their casinos*. If this is the intended purpose of the profits from gambling, the Tohono O'odham *are* more successful than the Navajos. If this is not the case, however, then casinos have no place on reservations.

The discussion of Native Americans and gambling is a controversial issue in society today. Other cases, such as that of the Pequots in Connecticut, have also come to the forefront. Native Americans either agree with the establishment of casinos on reservations or disagree with it. Casinos have been beneficial not only to Native Americans, but also to others living around their casinos. But do these casinos make Native Americans less traditional? I really do not think so. What I do believe, however, is that if the funds are used properly, casinos can help enhance the traditions of Native Americans.



My Soul Seems Hopeless

Estela Garcia, '02

Disparity is my friend and charity well accepted.

Love denied but given too happily.

**I'm the rejected who rejects others to
form a barrier of precaution.**

**My heart has always been mistaken
and my feelings torn.**

**At least life after death will be an eternity
of pain or great joy.**

**Life's many twisted turns are unruly, it's
sufferings can cause such coldness, that one
would think there is no kindness.**

**How can there be kindness and inner peace
if all the heart knows is an evil
distorted into forms of
unhappiness?**

(background taken from "St. Anthony Messenger", August 1999)

SOUNDING BOARD

This is our newsletter's newest feature .

In this column, we will pose a topic on the minds of several members of our campus community, and elicit responses from our readers about it. We will print these responses in our next issue. Names can be withheld upon request.

Sound off on the following:

CNR resident students came back to campus with quite a surprise this semester -- an addition to their expenses. Resident students will be charged \$6.50 per semester to cover the costs of three new channels -- HBO, Style, and the History Channel.

Some students were not happy about this because they do not recall any discussion about the new channels. Others are miffed that they have to pay this additional cost for channels, and they do not even have a T.V. Still others think that roommates should split the cost between them, instead of each having to pay the entire amount.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? *Do you think that only students with T.V.'s should pay? Do you think students should vote on whether or not we should have the three extra channels? Do you think it is a good idea and are you glad that we finally have HBO?*

Send your responses to:
Femmes_d_Esprit@hotmail.com

Honors Semester: Arizona

Hi Dr. Raia,

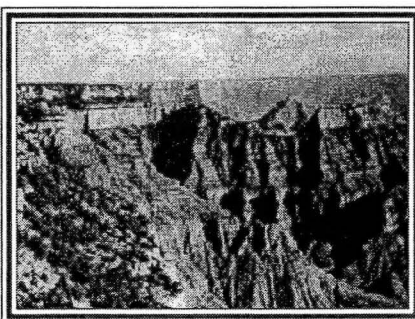
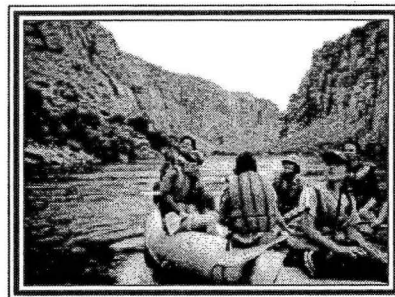
I'm having just a fabulous time in Flagstaff, Arizona. The NAU campus is huge. They have everything a student would need. You were right about the short walk to the downtown area. There are lots of things for me to do. I love my classes even though I miss CNR classes and faculty. I'm taking classes on geology, art, and philosophy. In the next module, I'll be taking a history class. I also have a research component. We--the students in the program--are introduced to interesting topics every day.

I've already had my first Grand Canyon experience this past weekend. We camped out at the North Rim, which is one of the less developed areas of the Canyon. The landscape is so incredible! I think I have finally realized how captivating nature is. My aesthetic vision is definitely going through a transformation.

Please let all the Honors students know I said hi. Thank you again for all your help to make this experience a reality for me. I'm still in disbelief that I'm actually in Arizona!

Amy Wu,
class of December, 1999

Amy's classmates enjoy a beautiful view from the water.



The Grand Canyon.

Water, Water -- How Much?

Vera Chernysheva, '02

There is an old proverb that says, "The first of things is water." Yet at The College of New Rochelle water is hard to find. Bottles of water in the cafeteria are an expensive luxury. Bottles of water in Rochelle's vending seem to disappear as soon as they are stocked. The only source of water in the dorms is the vending machines, yet those bottles seem to evaporate together with their content. If it were not for the weather, one could confuse the CNR campus for the second Death Valley in America.

According to Robert Porcelli (Chef Bob), the Executive Chef at CNR, there are six lots in the vending machines at Rochelle's assigned for water. Each lot has a capacity for containing two cases of bottles, each containing 24 bottles.

Sodexo Marriott (MDS), the food company that has worked with CNR since 1995, delivers 75-200 cases of water to the cafeteria three times a week. It seems to be enough, considering the cafeteria always has water. A reason for this could be the price. A 33.8 oz bottle of *Dannon* water costs \$.84 at A&P. The same size bottle of *Dannon* water costs \$1.75 in the cafeteria. When asked for an explanation for that price, Chef Bob says that this is one of the ways for MDS to make a profit at CNR. The price covers not only the cost of the bottle, but also the cost of distribution. Whatever amount is left is the profit for MDS. In fact, Chef Bob says that the company is now in a deficit. He says that CNR has to have about 500 more students in order for MDS to have any profit. Well, here is a good reason for recruiting your friends to CNR, folks.

Of course, a simpler solution to this water problem for students could be free water from water fountains. The campus of CNR consists of 20 buildings, according to Fred Sullo, the Director of Facilities Management. Sullo said that the fountains here at CNR were installed at different times, but there are a total of 11 fountains on campus. Sullo also said that the amount of fountains depend on the demand for

them, and in his experience there has never really been a demand for fountains at the CNR campus in New Rochelle. However, when there is a demand, changes seem to be made. For example, the newest fountain was installed this summer by the Fitness Center to accommodate those who need to refresh themselves after a hard day's workout. Also, when there was a demand for fountains at CNR's South Bronx campus, because of the cost of the *Big Bear* bottles of water, fountains were added.

Jennifer Monteiro, a freshman at CNR, says, "Water in the cafeteria is too expensive! I agree we need fountains in the dorms. I think there should be at least one fountain on the first floor of each dorm." Bottled water from the vending machines is available in the dorms. However, a 16.9 oz bottle of water costs \$.90. The same size bottle of *Dannon* water at A&P costs \$.39.

Now, vending machines themselves can cause problems. According to James Coyne, Director of General Services, some students have experienced troubles with card readers on the vending machines in the dorms. An explanation Coyne gave for this was the lightening storm back in April of this year. Replacement card readers were ordered, but Coyne suggests that the card readers may or may not be the problem. In other words, there is no way of finding out the exact problem until the new card readers are installed.

According to Nutrition Almanac (1990), under normal conditions, a human body needs three quarts of water, or 5-8 glasses, to replace the every day loss of fluid. Yet, judging from the *reasonable* availability of water on the campus of CNR, its students will have difficulty keeping up with this statistic.

Senior Erica Marie Roth says she never asked why water--like many items in the cafeteria--is so expensive. She just never bought it. She says, "I often heard my friends complain

(cont'd on page 15)

The Institute for Experiential Learning is now accepting applications for their two internship programs, **The Capital Experience** and **The Embassy and Diplomatic Scholars**. Spend a semester in Washington, D.C., working four days a week in a real professional environment. Students can work at a variety of organizations, from media corporations, law firms, government agencies, art galleries, and businesses. Both programs are offered to students of any major. Along with this firsthand experience, students participate once a week in two seminars. The seminars teach students how to expand career goals and develop their academic skills. Students also gain a unique perspective of the world, working with other students from all over the globe. For more information contact **Dr. Mary Ryan at info@ielet.org** or call the institute at **1-800-IEL-0770**. You can also take a look at the brochure, in **Dr. Raia's office, Castle 323**.

The Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies announces its annual **Citizenship Essay Contest**. The topic this year is: *The Health of Citizenship in America*. If you are a full-time junior or senior, you are more than welcome to participate in the essay contest.

Prizes are: 1) \$2000, 2) \$1500 and 3) \$1000. If you are interested in this, speak to **Dr. Raia x5398**, email: **araia@cnr.edu**.

CHECK IT OUT!!!

Want to make a lasting contribution in a variety of fields, including education, business, agriculture, health, and the environment? Of course you do. Well, this is the perfect time to check out the **Peace Corps**.

To be qualified to join, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, and

in good general health. Assignments are approximately 27 months long. For more information, check out their web-site at **www.peacecorps.gov** or call **1-800-424-8580** and press 1 at the prompt.

Have you heard about **Cross-Cultural Solutions**? If not, you are missing a great volunteer organization right here in New Rochelle! Cross-Cultural Solutions is a service and cultural exchange program. Volunteers can work with people and programs in India, Ghana or Peru for a period of three weeks, and can decide to stay longer if they wish. To find out more information, check out their website at **www.crossculturalsolutions.org**, email them at **info@crossculturalsolutions.org** or call them at **1-800-380-4777**.

SSJ Volunteer Corps offers women and men the opportunity to work directly with the poor through the ministries of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. Volunteers live in a community, sharing meals, ministry, prayer, reflection, and their lives. It will be a challenging, faith-based, and fun-filled experience. Short-term service is 1-2 weeks, long-term is 6-12 months. Interested women and men must be 18 years or older, be willing and able to work with others, desire to live in a community, be flexible and have a willingness to try new experiences, have a good sense of humor and be in good physical and emotional health. To find out more about this enriching program, write to SSJ Volunteers Corps at **891 Jay Street, Rochester, New York 14611-1219**, or call **716-529-5689**, fax **716-586-1193**, you can email them at **ssjvol@juno.com**, or you can even check out their website at **www.ssjvolunteers.org**

Miss America the Beautiful

Katie Donovan, '02

We have all watched it. Year after year Americans sit in front of their television sets watching the parade of fifty women in their evening gowns and bathing suits, each with her hair in perfect order, diamonds dangling from her ears, with lips parted in a smile only Vaseline-dosed teeth can produce. Only five of the fifty make it past the first half-hour of the pageant, and the rest are sent back to their home states with a variety of parting gifts. The remaining five are left to duke it out, each one vying for that coveted position of *Miss America*. They must then go through the grueling question-and-answer round as viewers repeatedly hear the contestants' plans for solving world hunger and instituting peace in the Middle East. All this and Donnie and Marie Osmond as hosts. What more could you possibly ask for?

The Miss America Organization, however, saw the need for change in the 1999 pageant. The broadcast

time for the show was an hour earlier, the permitted style of swimsuit was broadened, the order of competitions were switched around and (*hang on to your bloomers here, folks*) this year marked the first crowning of a shorthaired Miss America. How's that for progress?

Despite the short hair and new bathing suits, another change was proposed for this year's

pageant and knocked down almost before it was laid on the table. Former (*And I say former because he was fired for the changes he attempted to make*) CEO of the Miss America Organization, Robert Beck, proposed lifting the ban the pageant currently has on allowing married women and women who have been pregnant to compete. This innovative idea was met with tremen-

dous opposition.

"They (the changes) strike at the very heart of the ideal that Miss America represents," said Libby Taylor, current president of the Miss America Organization. Taylor also went on to say that, "the changes would destroy the fundamental principles of the pageant."

The apparent notion here is that women who have ever been married or pregnant will diminish the "wholesome values" perceived for Miss America and lower the moral standards of the entrance criteria. But, what

can wholesome possibly mean for contemporary America?

As part of a generation growing up with graphic movies, Internet access to nude pictures and bomb-making tips, and violent video games, I can only associate two things with being wholesome: Nickelodeon and wheat bread. We live in a country with school shootings, overly publicized presidential affairs and elephant dung paintings of the Virgin Mary. The United States is not exactly associated with the concept of wholesomeness.

But it was not Monica Lewinsky or Columbine High School or even the Brooklyn Museum that robbed America of its purity. If you think about it, "wholesomeness" never existed here; we just made believe it did. The housewives of the fifties used tranquilizers in record numbers and numerous presidents before Bill Clinton are said to have had affairs. The only difference is that in 1999, most of us know that sweeping impurities under the rug does not make them disappear. We recognize that they have to be dealt with and in some cases tolerated. Miss "America" bears the name of our country and ideally would be a repre-

(cont'd on page 15)



photo from www.missamerica.org

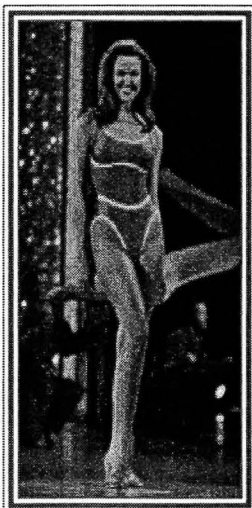


photo from www.missamerica.org

**School of Arts and Sciences
Honors Students, 1998-99**

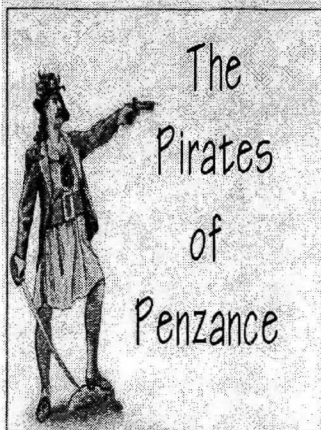
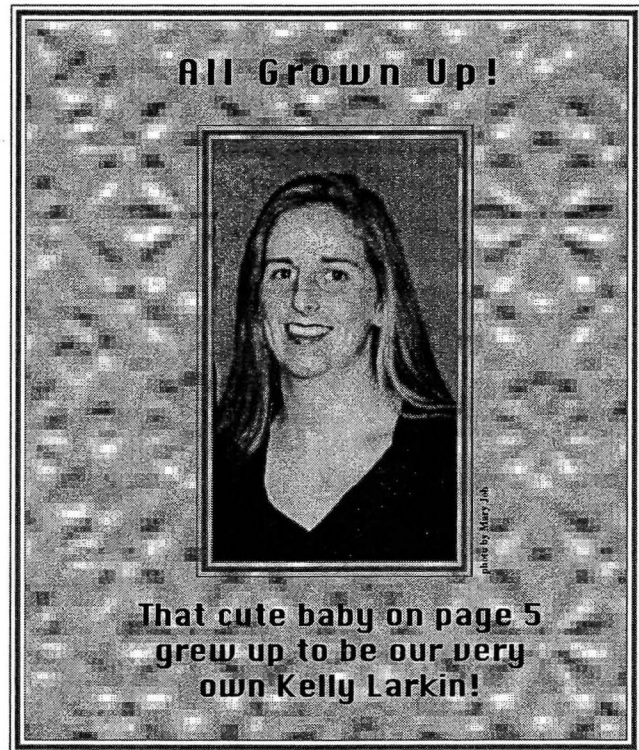
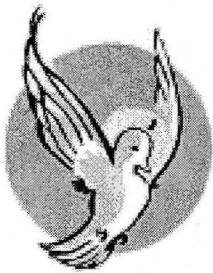
Denise Margaret Abatemarco*
Nadine Alvarez*
Amy Angeles
Roxana Mihaela Argintescu
Shakuntala Balram*
Aida Bardales
Melody Claudette Barreiros
Samantha Ana Begonja
Carly Heather Borenkind
Dawn R. Bridges
Erin Kristen Carmichael*
Amanda Yvette Cartagena*
Angela Cascarano
Christina Marie Cortez*
Christina Marie Diaz*
Katherine Rita Donovan*
Dana Marie Dunn

Adrienne Joy Garafalo*
Jane A. Graver
Andrea Lorraine Hindmarsh*
Jennifer Marie Horbal*
Amadika Bienta Hospedales*
Anne Elizabeth Houle*
Paula Hughes*
Mary Job*
Elizabeth Kelly
Faiza Khan*
Tara Marie Kistler
Kelly Anne Larkin*
Eva Lee
Elizabeth Megan Lennon
Deanne Doris Levi
Angela Lynn Manning*
Jaclyn Martinez*

Lisa Marie Mecca*
Catherine T. Monopoli
Melissa Jean Morissette
Leslie Ann Nichter
Faye Anne Pachonas
Dawn Marie Phillips*
Faith Ann Racette*
Tzveta Georgieva Raynova*
Sadia Rehman*
Katrina Rhein
Una Taseta Richards-Devoe
Patricia Cathleen Riebesehl
Gloria Luz Romero*
Erica Marie Roth
Michelle Elizabeth Rumph
Karen Diane Russell
Tina Tamara Samuels

Lisa Sansotta
Cora Marie Santaguida
Ute Christina Schneider
Tara Elizabeth Servedio
Lauren Anne Sichler
Michele V. Silvestri
ChaChanna Simpson
Katherine Jude Stemmler
Noela Liyong Taban*
Brandee Taylor
Rebecca Joy Teetsel*
Jennifer Torres
Angela Marie Valitutto
Monika Lin Wargo*
Jennifer Lynn Young
Laura Zygmunt

**The SAS Honors Program wishes
Brenda Irene Kibler, '97, many years of
happiness in married life.
Brenda wed Christopher Liberato Aversano
on Saturday, October 23, 1999
at our Holy Family Chapel.
Congratulations, Brenda & Christopher!!**



**Catch Honors Students Vera Chernysheva and Liz Lagana in
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Romita Auditorium

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**Call 914-654-5373 to reserve your tickets now!
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**School of Arts and Sciences
Dean's List, 1998-99**

Frida Fiona Agaba
Karen A. Austin
Marlena M. Becknel
Annette Padua Corrigan
Sarah Jean Cote
Morgan Stefani Dill
Shanna Duitz
Michelle Echevarria*
Andreen Violet Fearon
Lauren Michele Frederick
Estela Garcia*
Angela Marie Gavazzi*
Maria Altagracia Grullon
Rosalin Guterrez
Tamesha Nordia Hayle
Debra M. Hedrick
Dayanara Esther Hudson*
Gina Marie Jones
Maria Kocaj
Tanya Arlene Madrid
Tonica Antoinette McAlpine

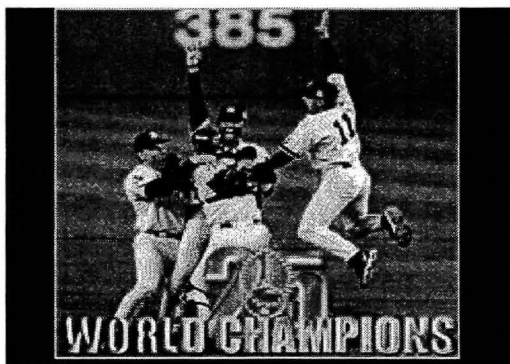
Ivette Allison Morales
Servone Sherdine Neckles
Christina Anne Nyman
Meghan Aileen O'Connor
Adiaha Abena Onyemaechi
Alexandra Nicole Paradise
Melissa Alia Perez
Gina A. Piazza
Ericka Estela Pivaral
Sabrina Marie Ramos
Rebecca Sara Schlau
Anastasia Smith
Gabriela Suarez
Kerry-Ann Cecelia Turner
Lanya Vasquez
Mary Michelle Walls
Jalila Anisa Washington
Carisa Jane Wasserman
Marianne E. Weston
Jacquelynn Denise White

**SAS Honors Program Members*

(cont'd from page 11)

about the prices in general. I either bring my own bottle or drink out of the fountain. We do need more fountains in the classroom buildings." Erica, however, is a commuter.

Residents need to find other solutions to this water problem. And since water fountains are not in demand--at least, according to school officials--A&P is the next best thing. So, next time you recruit your friends to CNR, do not forget to tell them to include the cost of water when calculating their tuition.



Da 'Bronx Bombers' have done it again!!!

Good luck to all the men of the New York Yankees in their victory at the last World Series of this Millennium!!

Wondering what your high school classmates are up to? Wish you knew whatever happened to your college classmates? Well, 'GradFinder' can help you! Log in free at www.gradfinder.com and list yourself under your own college or high school. Then, check in on your classmates who have signed up also, and start catching up on old times!

(cont'd from page 13)

sensation of our society. In actuality, however, Miss America represents nothing more than a 1950's notion of what America should be.

So, what do we do with Miss America? The pageant does well in the Nielsen ratings, so it is obviously something Americans are watching. What is even more surprising is that the movement to keep Miss America's ban on marriage and pregnancy has tremendous support. Another former CEO of the pageant, Leonard Horn, believes that if the changes had been instituted it would have marked the "demise" of the Miss America Pageant.

The decision to keep the ban intact, however, is currently being reviewed by the Civil Rights Division of the New Jersey's state attorney's office as to whether the policy is discriminatory. As it stands right now, the 2000 Miss America Pageant will leave no room for women who have been married or pregnant. Instead, they will crown yet another Miss America and she'll be awarded for her "beauty" with an expensive car, cash prizes and a college scholarship (*am I the only one who sees a problem with dishing out a scholarship because you look good in a bathing suit?*).

As long as Miss America continues to use these ideals as entrance criteria, the pageant will not make any real progress. The winner will be chosen from a relatively homogeneous pool of contestants and be awarded the title of *Miss America*. The tears will come as the roses and the crown are presented to her, she claims her title and makes her strut down for the rose walk. She is now considered the perfect image of female beauty--whole-some, pure and (*because of all the Vaseline on her teeth*) unable to do much more than smile.

"I think it will just be another year. I don't believe in all this craze like stocking up on food, etc. I do hope that that Y2K will not cause any problems with computers, especially those used by banks and airlines."

--Tzveta Raynova, '01

"[With] a new millennium approaching...why does that mean it will automatically be the end of the world? That is because for many of us, computers are the world! With Y2K, the world for some people might end (at least for a few hours). [Also], the Mayas, as I have learned in my Latin American History class, have been extremely precise in their predictions of eclipses, etc., and they have only been off by 33 seconds! They predict the end

(Conversation on the SpeakEasy Cafe)

--Monika Wargo, '00

"I think that the Millennium will be a time of rethinking for a lot of people. I think that the New Year is going to be a time of spiritual reflection as well as life evaluations. To the contrary, I think it will also be a brief period of rebellion (for lack of a better word). Many will probably find themselves in the midst of uproar just because many are not going to know how to act when the year turns 2000."

--Erica Pitts, '02

"I hope things are different. I hope there is less greed and violence. I think that this kind of change can only come from within. To change society, you have to change yourself."

--Renuka Rajani, '00

"To me, it is another year. Yet, it gives me the shivers to know that a youngster in the future will be reading about this century in a history book. We will be a part of history. What makes it significant is that our part of history is marked with this huge number. As on any celebration of a New Year, it is time to make new resolutions, to have new dreams, to have new goals. Whatever goals we have for this new, still blank, page of history is what we should celebrate on January 1st of 2000.

--Vera Chernysheva, '02

"I think the Millennium will bring more computers into the lives of more people than any one ever intended. It seems that the more technologically advanced we become, the less anyone has to leave their homes. The idea that someone can purchase their groceries and even party supplies all by a few clicks disturbs me. I think computers will end up controlling everything we do in the Millennium. Time to be afraid."

--Amanda Cartagena, '01